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1995/06/23

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 23, 1995

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our strong concerns regarding evidence that the People's Republic of China may have transferred ballistic missile technology to Iran. Given the fact that this is a transfer to a terrorist nation in an unstable region, we urge you to exercise all legal authority available to you to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction to Iran.

Specifically, it is our understanding that U.S. intelligence sources have documented an extensive technology cooperation program between Iran and China. This technology apparently would enable the Iranian government to produce ballistic missiles that are beyond the limits of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

As you well know, federal law provides you with the authority to impose sanctions on any foreign entity that provides missile technology that violates the MTCR -- authority you previously exercised in 1993 when China transferred M-11 ballistic missile components to the government of Pakistan. In 1994, you signed into law legislation that gave you added authority to impose sanctions for MTCR violations against companies that transfer technology to terrorist states. This new authority creates a rebuttable presumption that any transfer of technology listed on the MTCR to a terrorist state is subject to sanctions by the United States.

Mr. President, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is the single most serious national security issue facing the United States and its allies. All one need do is contemplate a ballistic missile with a nuclear payload in the hands of a rogue terrorist state, like Iran, to understand the ominous implications of allowing any kind of missile technology transfer. Fortunately, federal law provides you with the ability to combat these illicit activities swiftly.

Therefore, we urge you to exercise all legal authority available to you to halt and prevent the spread of ballistic missile and related technology from China to Iran.

The President
June 23, 1995
Page 2

We look forward to learning in the near future what action you intend to take in response to this critical national security matter.

Sincerely,


Larry Prosser


Alfonse M. D'Amato